

students a good education that leads to a good job and then fail to deliver on that promise—at the expense of both students and the taxpayers. If these schools violated these rules, then they would be bounced from the program.

We have already determined that schools with unacceptably high student loan default rates should not be permitted to participate in the federally guaranteed student loan program. I submit that if a school is deemed ineligible to participate in the federally guaranteed student loan program, then it should also not be permitted to participate in the Pell Grant Program.

We were able to put this into effect by making it a part of the Omnibus Consolidated Revisions and Appropriations Act of 1996. After going into effect for 1 year, about \$8 million were redistributed to responsible schools.

If we could find a way to pay for an increase in title IV student aid programs, there would be very few Members, if any, who would be unsupportive. But, faced with a \$4.7 trillion debt and annual deficits exceeding \$200 billion, we do not have that luxury. However, today we have an opportunity to stretch our Pell grant funds by disqualifying those schools that we have already disqualified from the federally guaranteed student loan program.

I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation. Make our Pell grant money go farther. Throw the scam schools out of the Pell program. Protect the taxpayer. Cosponsor the Pell Grant Student/Taxpayer Protection Act.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1274, THE  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS  
AND TECHNOLOGY [NIST]  
AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 1274, the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST] Authorization Act of 1997.

Mr. Speaker, NIST is one of our least known yet most important agencies. As part of the Department of Commerce, NIST performs for the Federal Government the vital role of standardization. This constitutionally mandated effort ensures that U.S. businesses have the ability to interact not only with each other, but in the global marketplace. Without an arbiter of standards, we would never know what even the simplest of measures represents. NIST laboratories are responsible for the maintenance and development of accurate weights and measures necessary for developing new technologies and carrying out commerce.

H.R. 1274 authorizes the NIST programs, the Under Secretary for Technology, and Office of Technology Policy for fiscal years 1998 and 1999. Unlike the administration's request, the bill prioritizes funding for NIST laboratory functions, increasing their funding by 5 percent in fiscal year 1998 and 3 percent in fiscal year 1999, while reducing funding for lower priority programs such as the Advanced Technology Program [ATP].

Specifically for fiscal year 1998, the bill authorizes \$278,563,000 for NIST laboratory activities. This total includes an increase of

\$2,500,000 above the administration's request for the physics laboratory program to support reengineering measurement services to simplify the delivery of measurement assurance at the point of use. This initiative should increase the accuracy and lower the cost of calibration for the end users of NIST standards.

A \$4,000,000 increase from the levels recommended by the administration is included for the Computer Science and Applied Mathematics Program to augment NIST work in the field of computer security; and \$500,000 has been added for the Technical Assistance Program to support improving measurement standards to facilitate international trade and provide additional funding to implement the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995. The bill authorizes a total of \$286,919,890 for the NIST labs in fiscal year 1999.

The bill also authorizes funding for both the Advanced Technology Program [ATP] and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership [MEP] Program in fiscal years 1998 and 1999. ATP is authorized at \$185,100,000 in fiscal year 1998 and \$150,000,000 in fiscal year 1999. The program's match requirements are also altered by the bill, with new requirements for a 60-percent match from the private sector awardee replacing the program's traditional 50-50 split. This change should enable ATP grant funding to be further leveraged. To ensure that ATP grants are not simply displacing private capital, the bill also contains language requiring review of ATP applications to ensure that the ATP grant is actually required in order to enable the project to go forward.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1274 includes \$117,800,000 for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership [MEP] Program in fiscal year 1998 and \$111,300,000 in fiscal year 1999. These totals will allow for full funding of all 75 existing MEP centers and will cover the administrative costs associated with running the program. The bill also includes language which will allow MEP centers slated to sunset during the life of the bill to continue to receive funds for an additional 2 years if they meet the program's performance criteria.

The bill also authorizes \$4,134,500 in fiscal year 1998 and \$5,289,000 in fiscal year 1999 for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Program. The increases are sufficient to allow for the program's expansion into education and health care over the next 2 years.

Finally, the bill authorizes funding for NIST critical maintenance and construction needs. The bill includes \$16,692,000 in fiscal year 1998 and \$67,000,000 in fiscal year 1999 for construction and maintenance of NIST facilities. The funding is sufficient to cover the administration's request for maintenance in fiscal year 1998 and fiscal year 1999 and \$50,000,000 in fiscal year 1999 for NIST's top new facility priority, the Advanced Metrology Laboratory [AML]. In order to ensure that the construction funding is used in the most appropriate fashion, H.R. 1274 includes a certification requirement precluding the Department from obligating any money to new construction unless it meets the requirements of NIST's new facilities plan.

Along with the authorization language, the bill includes provisions to reduce scientific research earmarks, to require the Science Committee to receive notice of any reprogramming of NIST funds, and to express the sense of Congress that NIST should address the year 2000 computer date field problem.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1274 is a sound bill. It is fiscally responsible and will help ensure that some of our Nation's most important technology research and development programs are adequately funded for the next 2 years. I encourage all my colleagues to join me in supporting the National Institute of Standards and Technology Authorization Act of 1997.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED  
STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION  
AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997,  
H.R. 1272

**HON. STEVEN SCHIFF**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Messrs. SENSENBRENNER, BROWN, and BARCIA to introduce a bipartisan bill to authorize the programs of the United States Fire Administration [USFA]. This small agency, housed in the Federal Emergency Management Agency, provides vital assistance to the Nation's fire and emergency services communities which helps them to save lives and property. The USFA is able to perform this service through its four primary missions: fire service training; fire-related data collection and analysis; public education and awareness; and research and technology.

Through the efforts of the USFA as a partner with State and local fire and emergency service communities, fire deaths and injuries and property losses are down. For a relatively small amount of money, these programs provide the men and women of the fire service the necessary leg up that enables them to achieve the seemingly insurmountable obstacles they face every day as the first line of defense in the fight against fire and arson.

This 2-year authorization bill establishes funding levels sufficient to preserve all the missions and functions of the United States Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy [NFA], which is administered by the USFA. Specifically, the bill provides a 3-percent increase over the administration's fiscal year 1998 requested level and a 3-percent increase in fiscal year 1999. We believe this additional money is necessary in order to ensure that the agency can continue its current mission activities as well as perform a new counterterrorism training function.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the efforts of the USFA and the NFA, and I believe this bill, as a reflection of the bipartisan support for these agencies, will enable them to continue their missions and accomplish their goals.

IN HONOR OF FATHER FRANCIS  
DOLS, T.O.R.: CELEBRATING 50  
YEARS OF SERVICE TO HIS FEL-  
LOW MAN BOTH IN EUROPE AND  
AMERICA

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional man, Father Francis Dols, who is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a priest in the